

SEP 24 2003

§Appl. No.: 09/901,632
Amdt. Dated: September 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of: June 23, 2003

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A unitary filter element support and valve within a
filter cartridge disposed between for mounting a filter element on an end plate within a
filter cartridge, comprising:

a unitary valve body of resilient flexible material, and

a bypass valve portion unitary with the valve body, the bypass valve portion being
configured as a collar and having a sealing ~~portions~~ portion for sealing with the filter

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element, spaced projections ~~on~~ upstream of the bypass valve portion when the filter element is clogged, the spaced projections being disposed between and engaging both the bypass valve portion and the filter element ~~for engaging the filter element to allow for allowing direct~~ fluid pressure application to the sealing portion, wherein when the filter element is clogged, increased fluid pressure separates the sealing portion from the filter element allowing the fluid to bypass the filter element, and

~~an anti-drainback portion unitary with the body, the anti-drainback portion overlying inlet structure openings through the end plate.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The filter element support and unitary valve according to claim 4 13 wherein the an anti-drainback valve is configured as a skirt extending extends radially from the collar portion.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The filter element support and unitary valve according to claim 44 13 wherein the projections are ribs on the collar.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The filter element support and unitary valve according to claim 45 14 wherein the ribs extend over the skirt to provide channels between the filter element and valve body for applying fluid pressure to the sealing portion.

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Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The ~~filter element support and~~ unitary valve of claim 16 wherein the resilient flexible material is rubber or nitrile rubber.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

--Claim 20 (New) The unitary valve according to claim 44 13 wherein the sealing portion is an annular lip.

Claim 21 (New) The unitary valve according to claim 20 wherein the ribs extend over the skirt ~~to provide channels between the filter element and valve body~~ to provide channels for applying fluid pressure to the annular lip.

Claim 22 (New) The unitary valve according to claim 13 wherein the valve includes a portion abutted by the filter element for supporting the filter element thereon.

Claim 23 (New) A unitary filter element support and valve within a filter cartridge for mounting disposed between a filter element on an end plate within a filter cartridge, comprising:

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a unitary valve body of resilient flexible material;

a bypass valve portion unitary with the valve body, the bypass valve portion being configured as a collar and having a sealing portion for sealing with the filter element, spaced projections upstream of the bypass valve portion when the filter element is clogged, the spaced projections being disposed between and engaging the bypass valve portion and the filter element for allowing direct fluid pressure application to the sealing portion, wherein when the filter element is clogged increased fluid pressure separates the sealing portion from the filter element allowing fluid to bypass the filter element, and

an anti-drainback portion unitary with the body, the anti-drainback portion overlying inlet openings through the end plate.

Claim 24 (New) The filter element support and valve according to claim 23 wherein the anti-drainback valve is a skirt extending radially from the collar portion.

Claim 25 (New) The filter element support and valve according to claim 24 wherein the projections are ribs on the collar.

Claim 26 (New) The filter element support and valve according to claim 25 wherein the ribs extend over the skirt to provide channels between the filter element and valve body for applying fluid pressure to the sealing portion.

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Claim 27 (New) The filter element support and valve of claim 26 wherein the resilient flexible material is rubber or nitrile rubber.

Claim 28 (New) The unitary valve according to claim 24 wherein the sealing portion is an annular lip.

Claim 29 (New) The filter element support and valve according to claim 27 wherein the ribs extend over the skirt to provide channels between the filter element and valve body for applying fluid pressure to the annular lip.--

Claim 30 (New) A unitary filter element support and valve for mounting a filter element on an end plate within a filter cartridge, comprising:

a molded unitary body of resilient flexible material formed as a single element and including a central axis;

a radially-extending anti-drainback portion unitary with the body, the anti-drainback portion overlying inlet structure into an inlet chamber through the end plate; and

a bypass valve portion unitary with the body, the bypass valve portion being configured as a collar and having a sealing portions for sealing with the filter element, said collar including spaced projections thereon for engaging the filter element and

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forming axially-extending channels between respective ones of said projections to allow fluid pressure from the inlet chamber to be applied to the sealing portion causing unseating thereof and a flow bypassing the filter element.